

POLICE

Wife's order against police chief lifted

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DUXBURY — A judge has lifted a restraining order against Police Chief Mark DeLuca at the request of the chief's wife, who obtained the order last month.

Lynne DeLuca asked that the restraining order be lifted through her attorney Thursday afternoon at Plymouth Probate Court.

The lifting of the order allows the chief to reclaim his gun and license to carry a firearm, which were ordered into police custody after the restraining order was filed.

Duxbury police could not confirm late Friday that the chief had resumed carrying his gun.

In an affidavit outlining her reasons for seeking the order, Lynne DeLuca said her husband choked her

and shoved her into a closet during an argument in October.

DeLuca also resigned from the state boxing commission.

The request to have the restraining order lifted came a day before a hearing in Brockton Superior Court on whether it would be extended.

While the order was in effect, town officials say, DeLuca kept a regular work schedule. No criminal charges were filed against the chief and the town is not planning any disciplinary action against him, the officials said.

"These are very difficult personal circumstances and it's unfortunate that this became a visible issue," Town Manager Rocco Longo said. "It's really resolved now, and this doesn't change anything. He has been doing a great job."

Longo said he was concerned about DeLuca's being without a gun, but said it didn't seem to affect his work.

"I'm sure he was under more stress, but he did his job and he did it well," Longo said. "... I can't say whether not having a gun directly affected his job. Was I concerned about it? A little bit."

In the affidavit she filed seeking the order, DeLuca said she did not feel safe knowing her husband could come by her house anytime he wanted. Mark DeLuca filed for divorce in September and has not been living in the couple's Whitman home.

"There has been physical abuse in the past 12 years," she wrote in the affidavit, "and he has threatened in the past that because he is a police officer he will not get in trouble for

his treatment of me."

Neither the chief nor his wife returned phone calls Friday seeking comment.

DeLuca, 41, was selected to be Duxbury's police chief last summer after Chief Charles Mazzone resigned for health reasons. DeLuca received praise from town officials during his first six months as chief.

Longo said the restraining order did not diminish DeLuca's good standing with town officials. He said he hopes the lifting of the order will allow the town to move beyond the incident.

"This puts the problem in the right hands to be resolved," Longo said. "Hopefully, (the chief and his wife) will be able to work through the situation. ... It's no longer an issue for the town to face."